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### THE FLORIDA BAPTIST CONVENTION THE REAL FOUNDER OF STETSON UNIVERSITY.

For twenty years Florida Baptists have believed that the Florida Baptist Convention founded the denominational school which has since developed into the present John B. Stetson University. But your readers have recently been informed to the contrary. In the Times-Union of April 22nd there appeared an article written by the president of Stetson University, denying absolutely that the Florida Baptist Convention had anything to do with the founding of the school; and he publishes statements purporting to come from Mr. DeLand and others to the same effect.

Dr. Hulley says, among other things: "At the same time the Baptists of the State, independently of Mr. DeLand, were talking of starting a school, they had no land, no building and no school. Mr. DeLand and these brethren met and talked over plans, but reached no agreement. In 1887 Mr. DeLand decided to incorporate this academy, under the name of 'DeLand University.'"

And in this easy and summary way does Dr. Hulley dispose of the convention's interest in and relation to Stetson University.

The Florida Baptist State Board of Missions is an organization created by the Florida Baptist Convention, its members being elected annually by the convention. This board meets quarterly and during the recesses of the convention represents the convention. As secretary of this board, I have in my possession, of course, the record books of the board. And these records, or minutes of the board's meetings through the many years of its history, do not bear out Dr. Hulley's statements. I beg to make a few quotations from these old records, and your readers can then judge whether Dr. Hulley's contentions or ours comprise the correct history of the school.

"Lake City, Feb. 19, 1885. "The State Mission Board of the Baptist Convention of the State of Florida met in Lake City on the 19th day of February to receive the report of the Locating Committee, appointed for this purpose at the late convention held in Orlando. Members present: H. M. King, W. M. Davis, T. W. Getzen, G. T. Leitner, F. B. Moodie, J. B. Edge, T. S. Chalker, A. C. McCants, A. P. Ashurst, A. E. Kitchen and Paul Willis.

"Brother King stated that the object of the called meeting of the board was for the purpose of presenting to them the decision of the College Locating Committee. Brother A. E. Kitchen then read the following report:

"Your committee appointed by the State Convention, at its regular session at Orlando, to locate the Female College report, that after visiting localities, severally, Lake Weir, DeLand and Gainesville, and receiving proposals from each; after carefully and prayerfully considering others, in their best judgment, accept the proposals of DeLand and unanimously locate said college at that place. H. M. King, chairman, E. Bean, A. E. Kitchen, P. P. Bishop, T. W. Getzen."

"The following letter was then read, from Mr. H. A. DeLand, giving the DeLand offer as follows:

"DeLand, Fla., Jan. 12, 1885.

"Rev. H. M. King,

"Gainesville, Fla.

"My Dear Brother—In accordance with your suggestion, I herewith submit to your committee appointed to locate the college the proposal I made to you when you were here, viz: \$5,000 cash, a subscription from the citizens of DeLand and vicinity, of not less than \$4,000, and lands from myself to the amount of \$5,000, making a total of \$15,000.

"I also desire your committee to bear in mind that which I have publicly signified, that with the blessing of God, what I offer to do now is only the beginning of my purpose. If, now, your committee decide that the cause will be best promoted by locating the college at Lake Weir, no one will more heartily acquiesce than myself. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

"Fraternally yours,

"H. A. DELAND."

"The above report, together with the action of the Locating Committee, was ratified by the State Board of Missions. "A committee of five was appointed to nominate five of the trustees of the college, who reported the following nominees: H. A. DeLand, Rev. D. Moore, D. D.; Walter Gwynn, Theodore Shotwell, F. B. Moodie, to which was added, on motion of F. B. Moodie, P. P. Bishop, J. S. Turner, to which was added, on motion of A. P. Ashurst, H. Griffith and H. M. King.

A. P. Ashurst, A. E. Kitchen and Charles C. Hill were appointed a committee to make official announcement of the decision of the Locating Committee, and to prepare an address to the Baptists of Florida, relative to the importance of fostering the college and of contributing to the endowment."

"Ocala, April 7, 1886.

"Dr. Griffith and Prof. Forbes were invited to speak with reference to DeLand College. The following resolution was then adopted:

"Resolved, That the pastors of all the Baptist churches in the State and the members of the board be furnished with blank bonds prepared by the Trustees of DeLand College, looking to raising the amount of \$10,000, agreed upon as the condition upon which Bro. DeLand promises to deed

to the Baptist Convention of the State of Florida DeLand Academy, furniture, etc., and \$10,000 endowment."

"Gainesville, Nov. 7, 1886. "Resolved, That an agent be employed to complete the endowment of \$10,000 for DeLand College. Rev. J. J. W. Place was elected as such agent."

"Gainesville, March 3, 1887.

"The special meeting of the board was called to order. Brother Place, agent of DeLand College, made a statement as to the object of this meeting, stating that Mr. DeLand required the sum of \$10,000 to be raised by the 1st day of May next, or his proposition to donate the property of the college to the denomination would be withdrawn.

"A committee was appointed to confer with Mr. DeLand and represent the State Board of Missions fully with reference to the college. The committee was named as follows: H. M. King, N. A. Bailey, A. J. King, J. J. W. Place. It was agreed that the board should give its note, properly signed by the president and secretary, for \$10,000, bearing interest at eight per cent., secured by individual indorsers, to secure the property of DeLand College."

"DeLand, May 4, 1887.

"The special committee reported that the plan adopted to secure to the Baptist Convention of the State of Florida the property, and \$10,000 offered to it by Mr. DeLand, was submitted to Bro. DeLand and accepted by him."

"Gainesville, Octo. 5, 1887.

"Resolved, That Bro. J. J. W. Place be requested to complete the work of raising the sum of \$10,000 for the endowment fund of DeLand University by the 1st day of April, if possible, and make report to the board at its April meeting at Gainesville."

These quotations are sufficient to give in outline the history of DeLand College, afterwards DeLand University, and we leave it to the jury of a fair-minded public to say whether or not the Florida Baptist Convention had anything to do with founding the school, and whether it properly has any rights in the school.

L. D. GEIGER, Secretary of the Board.

### THE OLD MINER OF BELLEVUE.

Standing on a street corner in Scranton, Pa., one day in February, 1906, was a group of miners just out from their day's toil in the workings of the Bellevue mine, a few hundred feet away, and from the breaker of which the black dust was blowing towards them. Two men in business attire walked up, having followed from the breaker, to engage them in their leisure hour in conversation which would bring out some personal mining reminiscence for use in newspaper and magazine articles they were preparing.

In the group were men whose whole lives since early boyhood had been spent in the mine, and the old miner no higher than to the position of coal digger. Forty-seven years spent in this one mine was the record of one of the men in the party—long and vigorous of frame, and with a fine practical understanding of the practice of coal mining, secured through these many years of rough experience. There were in the group others, not so old, but who had given so many of their years to their calling that they were highly skilled miners. And they saw nothing but years of hard toil—it was, to use a popular expression of the day, "back to the mines for them."

While the younger men of the group were gloomily forecasting their future, the old man of the party, who for some moments had been in apparent deep thought as the newspaper men were hurriedly jotting down their notes, suddenly aroused himself.

"I tell you, boys, you want to get an education. Then you can look for something better than the coal mines. It's old men and foreigners for the mines, but you young fellows can do something better if you will just take to some practical learning."

Some of the dust-begrimed young miners burst into laughter at the speech of the old man, but he turned on them scornfully with the retort: "Well, boys, if you had some learning you could make your brains worth dollars the same as the men you are talking to, and if you had any sense, you would go up town to the School of Mines and do what Davy Williams did, and now be a mine inspector, if there were any such place left for you, and if not, you might be foreman or superintendent."

The old miner then walked away, but he had set the others thinking, and one by one as they smoked the ashes from their pipes followed him from the place.

David T. Williams was up to a few years ago, driver boss at the Bellevue Colliery, and all the men of the mine knew him, and they also knew how he had applied himself to the Course of Instruction in coal mining of the International Correspondence Schools, of Scranton, and had qualified himself for the State examination, which certified his ability to fill the office of Inspector of Mines, and which office he is now filling with eminent satisfaction at a salary of \$400 per year. When Mr. Williams began his Course of Instruction he was utterly ignorant of the simple fractions in arithmetic, and his writing was rather hard to make out. But he had a higher aim than that of a mere driver boss over a lot of boys in the mine, and he persevered with his instruction papers, though oftentimes the midnight oil was burned. The result was a place of responsibility wherein he sees that the mines of his district are safe for thousands of men working in them, and for this service the State pays him a

salary which is five times that he received as a mere driver boss.

Is it to be wondered that the old miner of the Bellevue had the lesson of Davy Williams on his mind?

The International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa., can do as

well for any other man who will apply himself as did Mr. Williams; for the industrial world is full of places waiting for the men who are qualified to fill them. A post card sent to the Schools will bring all the information that may be desired.

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